

REMARKS

In the Patent Office Action mailed July 23, 2004, claims 1-20 were rejected and claims 21-36 were allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Of the rejected original claims 1-20 of the application, all of these claims have been cancelled herein, except for claim 6, 17, and 20.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 based on double patenting of the same invention set forth in claims 1-8, 13, and 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,894. All of the rejected claims have been cancelled herein, except for claims 17 and 20.

Claim 17 has been amended into independent form herein, adding all of the subject matter of its base claim 7 and its intervening claims 8, 9, 10, and 16 to claim 17. Thus, the subject matter of claim 10, which was not included in the double patenting rejection, has been added to new independent claim 17. In view of this amendment of claim 17, it is submitted that the basis for the double patenting rejection has been overcome.

Claim 20 has also been amended into independent form herein, adding all of the subject matter of its base claim 18 and intervening claim 19 to claim 20. The subject matter of claim 18 was not included in the double patenting rejection. Thus, it is submitted that the amendment of new independent claim 20 overcomes the basis for the double patenting rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of the disclosure of the Nakamura, et al., Patent No. 6,206,633 and Bookwalter, Patent No. 87,625.

Claim 6 has been amended herein into independent form, incorporating all of the subject matter of its base claim 1 into new independent claim 6. In addition, claim 6 now recites that the body is formed of stamped steel.

Claim 17 has been amended into independent form herein, adding all of the subject matter of its base claim 7 and its intervening claims 8, 9, 10, and 16 into new independent claim 17. Claim 17 also now recites that the body is formed of stamped steel.

Claim 20 has been amended into independent form herein, incorporating all of the subject matter of its base claim 18 and its intervening claim 19 into new independent claim 20. Claim 20 also recites the blower housing being formed of stamped steel.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of new independent claims 6, 17, and 20 is not disclosed by the prior art relied on in rejecting these claims, and therefore the prior art fails to provide sufficient information to the ordinary skilled artisan to render the subject matter of these claims obvious.

Each of new independent claims 6, 17, and 20 recites a blower housing body formed of stamped metal, and the second transition section being attached to the first transition section by crimping the sections together, or the second transition section attachment members being crimped to the first transition section attachment members, or the method step of crimping the second section to the first section. The stamped metal construction and the crimping features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art references of Nakamura, et al., No. 6,206,633 or Bookwalter, No. 87,625, the two prior art references relied on in rejecting these claims.

The Nakamura reference teaches forming case portions of a blower unit by molding (column 6, lines 16-18). The Bookwalter reference also teaches molded or cast casings (page 2, line 26). Neither reference suggests the stamped metal construction claimed.

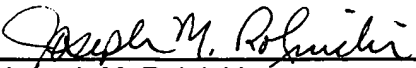
Furthermore, in the rejection of original claims 6, 17, and 20, it is contended that the Bookwalter reference discloses a crimped edge. However, the rejection of claim 6, 17, and 20 relies on a misinterpretation of the disclosure of the Bookwalter reference. The Bookwalter reference specifically sets forth that the external casing of the turbine is made of cast-iron (page 2, line 26), and that the casing is "formed with flanges, by means of which the two parts can be bolted together" (page 2, lines 33-35). Thus, not only is the Bookwalter casing formed of cast-iron which is a brittle material and is not easily bent, the reference specifically sets forth that the two casing parts are bolted together, and are not crimped together. The cast-iron material of the casing teaches away from crimping the edges together, because the cast-iron material is brittle and cannot be bent without likely breaking the material.

For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that the subject matter of amended new independent claims 6, 17, and 20 is not made obvious by the disclosures of the Nakamura reference and the Bookwalter reference, and that the disclosures of these references actually teach away from the subject matter claimed. Claims 6, 17, and 20 are therefore allowable over the prior art of record.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, the application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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